

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for complementing the inventory level of a distributor with the inventory of a manufacturer to fill an order requisition from a customer comprising the steps of:

providing a distributor computer capable of accessing inventory information relating to said distributor and manufacturer inventory;

filling a customer order requisition from at least one of said distributor or manufacturer inventory; and

generating a customer shipping document indicating fulfillment of said customer order from said distributor inventory.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said filling is from manufacturer inventory at a manufacturer location.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said generating step comprises generating said shipping documents at said manufacturer location where said customer order is filled.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said generating step further comprises providing a manufacturer computer, said manufacturer computer being capable of generating said shipping documents to said customer.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said generating step further comprises transmitting the distributor's name and logo from said manufacturer computer to said shipping documents.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said generating step further comprises transmitting unique customer identifier information from said manufacturer computer to said shipping documents.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said filling step further comprises transmitting said unique customer identifier information from said distributor to said manufacturer.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said filling step further comprises providing a manufacturer computer, said manufacturer computer being capable of providing inventory levels, prices, order acknowledgements, advanced shipping notices, and invoices to said distributor.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said accessing is through an electronic network that allows said distributor to access said manufacturer inventory.
10. The method of claim 2 wherein said filling comprises transmitting a purchase order from said distributor to said manufacturer, said purchase order being identified as for direct shipping to said customer from said manufacturer location where said order is filled.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said filling comprises allocating said identified purchase orders to manufacturer locations capable of filling said orders.
12. A system for filling a customer order from inventory of a manufacturer or distributor comprising:

a distributor computer system capable of accessing the inventory level of both said distributor and said manufacturer;

program instructions for processing said order to allow fulfillment of said order from at least one of said distributor inventory or said manufacturer inventory; and

a computer-generated shipping document for transfer to said customer, said shipping document indicating that said order has been filled by said distributor.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said order is filled from said manufacturer inventory at a manufacturer location.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said processing is from a manufacturer computer system, said manufacturer computer system being capable of providing inventory levels, prices, order acknowledgements, advanced shipping notices, and invoices to said distributor computer system.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said manufacturer computer system is further capable of generating said shipping documents for transfer to said customer.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein said shipping documents comprise the packing slip, the pallet posting documents and the container pack list.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein said shipping documents do not include the manufacturer logo thereon.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein said shipping documents contain the distributor's name and logo thereon.
19. The system of claim 12, wherein said shipping documents contain unique customer identifier information thereon.
20. The system of claim 19, wherein said distributor is capable of transmitting said unique customer identifier information to said manufacturer.
21. The system of claim 20, wherein said transmitted unique customer identifier information comprises the name and address of said customer.
22. The system of claim 20, wherein said transmitted unique customer identifier information comprises the customer-selected delivery method.
23. The system of claim 14, wherein said distributor computer system is in electrical communication with said manufacturer computer system through an electronic data interchange network.
24. The system of claim 14, wherein said distributor computer system is capable of transmitting purchase orders to said manufacturer computer system, said purchase orders being identified as for direct shipping to said customer from said manufacturer location where said order is filled.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein said manufacturer computer system is capable of allocating said identified purchase orders to said manufacturer locations capable of filling said orders.